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Atmospheric transport and deposition of Indonesian volcanic emissions

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Abstract. A regional climate model has been used to study the transport and deposition of sulfur (SO_2 and SO_4^{2-}) and PbCl_2 emissions from Indonesian volcanoes. The sensitivity of the atmospheric loss of these trace species to meteorological conditions and their solubility was examined. Two experiments were conducted: 1) volcanic sulfur released as primarily SO_2 and subject to transport, deposition, and oxidation to SO_4^{2-} ; and 2) PbCl_2 released as an infinitely soluble passive tracer subject to only transport and deposition. The first experiment was used to calculate SO_2 loss rates from each active Indonesian volcano producing an annual mean loss rate for all volcanoes of $1.1 \times 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$, or an e-folding rate of approximately 1 day. SO_2 loss rate was found to vary seasonally, be poorly correlated with wind speed, and uncorrelated with temperature or relative humidity. The variability of SO_2 loss rates is found to be correlated with the variability of wind speeds, suggesting that it is much more difficult to establish a “typical” SO_2 loss rate for volcanoes that are exposed to changeable winds. Within an average distance of 70 km away from the active Indonesian volcanoes, 53% of SO_2 loss is due to conversion to SO_4^{2-} , 42% due to dry deposition, and 5% due to lateral transport away from the dominant direction of plume travel. The solubility of volcanic emissions in water is shown to influence their atmospheric transport and deposition. High concentrations of PbCl_2 are predicted to be deposited near to the volcanoes while volcanic S travels further away until removal from the atmosphere primarily via the wet deposition of H_2SO_4 . The ratio of the concentration of PbCl_2 to SO_2 is found to exponentially decay at increasing distance from the volcanoes. The more rapid removal of highly soluble species should be considered when observing SO_2 in an aged plume and relating this concentration to other volcanic species. An assumption that the ratio between the concentrations of highly soluble

volcanic compounds and SO_2 within a plume is equal to that observed in fumarolic gases is reasonable at small distances from the volcanic vent, but will result in an underestimation of the emission flux of highly soluble species.

1 Introduction

Volcanic emissions can have significant environmental effects on local, regional, and global scales depending on how far the emissions are transported away from source prior to deposition. The impacts of volcanic emissions on the environment are defined by several variable characteristics, such as their chemical and physical properties (including solubility and particle size) (Mather et al., 2003), as well as environmental factors, i.e. volcano latitude, the maximum height at which emissions are injected (Halmer and Schmincke, 2003), wind speed, and precipitation.

Volcanic emissions can be released continuously by passive degassing or mild eruptions and can be released sporadically by more violent, and short-lived, eruptions. Violent eruptions can inject volcanic emissions past the tropopause with generally at least one to two stratosphere-reaching eruptions per year (Simkin, 1993; Bluth et al., 1997). Stratosphere-reaching eruption clouds can cause global surface cooling for months up to a few years by sulfate aerosol (SO_4^{2-}) backscattering of incoming shortwave solar radiation (e.g. Textor et al., 2003). It was calculated by Andres and Kasgnoc (1998) that only 1% of volcanic SO_2 is released sporadically, while 99% is released continuously. Continuous, tropospheric emissions are rapidly deposited locally and regionally but can have a significant atmospheric impact because they are supplied for long periods of time, and because volcanoes are often at elevations above the planetary boundary layer, allowing those emissions to remain in the troposphere longer than, for example, most anthropogenic S emissions. As an example of the relative significance of

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non-eruptive volcanic degassing, such sources may be responsible for 24% of the total annual mean direct radiative top-of-atmosphere forcing (Graf et al., 1997).

Volcanic emissions are primarily H_2O , followed by CO_2 , SO_2 , HCl , and other compounds (e.g. Bardintzeff and McBirney, 2000). Some volcanic compounds are particularly environmentally important because they are released in extremely small quantities by other sources. For example, volcanoes may be responsible for 11% of the total global emissions of Cr, and species including Hg, Ni, Cu, and As each contribute more than 5% (Nriagu, 1989, corrected by Mather et al., 2003). Considering the volcanic contribution to natural (non-anthropogenic) emissions, species including Cd, Ni, Hg, and Pb contribute more than 15% to the global natural emissions of each. SO_2 has been the most monitored volcanic emission because the concentration of SO_2 within a volcanic plume is typically orders of magnitude greater in concentration than what is found in background ambient air. For the past few decades the majority of volcanic SO_2 observations have been performed with the Correlation Spectrometer (COSPEC), which measures the flux of emitted SO_2 (e.g. Stoiber et al., 1983). The (relatively) large number of published measurements of volcanic SO_2 fluxes is a useful tool for assessing the impact of volcanoes on the atmosphere because SO_2 is an environmentally important gas. SO_2 is readily converted, within days, to SO_4^{2-} aerosol which is climatically significant and is a main component of acid rain.

In addition to ground-based remote sensing (including COSPEC), fumarolic gas sampling and plume particle sampling (e.g. Pfeffer et al., 2006) have contributed to an improved understanding of the variations in time and between different volcanoes of emission compositions and strengths and, to a lesser extent, about processes occurring within volcanic plumes. There are, however, limitations to what can be accomplished in the field. For example, ground-based remote sensing measurements of volcanic SO_2 fluxes over time at one volcano can be used to observe changes in volcanic activity as an eruption prediction tool in conjunction with other volcano monitoring techniques (for example at Montserrat; Young et al., 2003). Remote sensing instruments can detect changes in SO_2 emissions, but cannot determine unambiguously if the observed variations are due to changes in the volcano itself or to changing meteorological conditions.

Because SO_2 flux rates are the most abundant volcanic emission measurements, such observations have been used to extrapolate to other, unmeasured volcanic compounds: "X". This is done by relating the observed concentration of SO_2 in the plume to the ratio of "X" to total S ($\text{SO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{S}$) found in fumarolic gases or condensates. In fumarolic gases, S is found as primarily SO_2 and H_2S , and it is assumed that all S is oxidized immediately upon exposure to air to be found as SO_2 . The method of relating "X" to SO_2 assumes that the ratio of the concentrations of "X" to SO_2 remains constant from the time the emissions are released until the plume is measured. This technique has been used, for example, to es-

timate the annual flux of metals from volcanoes (Hinkley et al., 1999) and to constrain the flux balances of elements at subduction zones (Hilton et al., 2002). The assumption of a steady ratio of $[\text{X}]/[\text{SO}_2]$ remains a subject of uncertainty, however. Pyle and Mather (2003), for example, have shown that $[\text{Hg}]/[\text{SO}_2]$ ratios can vary by an order of magnitude dependent on the type of volcanic activity (passively degassing vs. explosively erupting). The ratio of $[\text{X}]/[\text{SO}_2]$ can vary not only dependent on the type of volcanic activity, but can also vary in time if the two species are removed at different rates from the plume. As remote sensing measurements of SO_2 flux using COSPEC are performed at distances of up to 30 km away from volcanic craters (for example at Mt. Etna; Weibring et al., 2002), it is important to constrain how reasonable it is to relate observations of SO_2 in an aged volcanic plume to more soluble compounds.

A field study examining the influence of variable meteorological factors on volcanic sulfur was performed by Fujita et al. (2003). They observed that the wet deposition of SO_4^{2-} and the percentage of sulfur deposited as SO_4^{2-} increased with increasing precipitation. McGonigle et al. (2004) attempted to determine what meteorological parameters are the most important for influencing the loss of SO_2 from volcanic plumes by performing repeated scans of SO_2 column concentration using ground-based differential optical absorption spectroscopy (DOAS). They measured the plume of Masaya volcano for several days during the dry season and found that time of day (i.e. insolation strength), relative humidity, and temperature had no significant impact on the measured SO_2 flux rate. We have addressed the question of the influence of meteorological conditions on volcanic plume SO_2 loss using an atmospheric chemistry model. We have exploited this technique to hold the modeled volcanic emissions constant, thus removing the inherent natural variability of volcanic emission rates. This enables us to study what variations in atmospheric transport are due to changing atmospheric conditions rather than due to changes in the volcanic activity. The modeling technique also allows us to study a much longer time period (1 year), consider different seasons, and to perform statistical comparisons between the SO_2 loss rate and the varying meteorological conditions. Modeling also enables us to calculate what portion of SO_2 lost from the volcanic plume is due to the different loss mechanisms: oxidation, deposition, or transport out of the plume, as well as to consider volcanic emissions additional to SO_2 . This paper describes a regional atmospheric chemistry modeling study that has been performed to address two questions: 1) How do variable meteorological conditions influence volcanic SO_2 concentration in the atmosphere and SO_2 loss rates? and 2) How do the transport and deposition patterns of highly soluble volcanic compounds relate to SO_2 ? This study has been performed over Indonesia because this is the region of the world with the largest number of historically active volcanoes and the region has a relatively continuous emission

history with 4/5 of the volcanoes with dated eruptions having erupted here during the past century (Simkin and Siebert, 1994).

2 Experimental setup

The regional atmospheric chemistry model REMOTE (Regional Model with Tracer Extension; Langmann, 2000) has been used to simulate meteorological conditions for the year 1985, a climatologically “normal” year, i.e. neither “El Niño” nor “La Niña”. REMOTE combines the physics of the regional climate model REMO 5.0 with tropospheric chemical equations for 63 chemical species. The physical and dynamical equations in the model (Jacob, 2001) are based on the regional weather model EM/DM of the German Weather Service (Majewski, 1991) and include parameterizations from the global ECHAM 4 model (Roeckner, 1996). The chemical tracer transport mechanisms include horizontal and vertical advection (Smolarkiewicz, 1983), convective up- and down-draft (Tiedtke, 1989), and vertical diffusion (Mellor and Yamada, 1974). Trace species can undergo chemical decay in the atmosphere or can be removed from the atmosphere by wet and dry deposition or transport out of the model boundaries. Dry deposition is dependent on friction velocities and ground level atmospheric stability (Wesley, 1989). Wet deposition is dependent on precipitation rate, mean cloud water concentration, and compound solubility (Walcek and Taylor, 1986). 158 gasphase reactions from the RADM II photochemical mechanism (Stockwell et al., 1990) are included. 43 longer-lived chemical species are treated as predicted species and 20 shorter-lived ones as diagnosed species. Within the model, sulfate can be produced by the gas phase oxidation of SO_2 by $\text{OH}\cdot$ or the aqueous phase oxidation of SO_2 via five chemical reactions: by H_2O_2 , O_3 , peroxyacetic acid (PAA), methylhydrogenperoxide (MHP), or via catalysis by Fe^{3+} or Mn^{2+} (see Walcek and Taylor, 1986, and references therein).

The model was applied with 20 vertical layers of increasing thickness between the Earth’s surface and the 10 hPa pressure level (approximately 23 km). Analysis data of weather observations from the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) were used as boundary conditions every 6 h. The physical and chemical state of the atmosphere was calculated every 5 min. Background concentrations of 39 species (Chang et al., 1987), including SO_2 , SO_4^{2-} , O_3 , and H_2O_2 , were specified at the lateral model boundaries. The model domain covers Indonesia and Northern Australia (91°E – 141°E ; 19°S – 8°N) with a horizontal resolution of 0.5° (approximately 53 km in longitude and 55 km in latitude) with 101 grid points in longitude and 55 grid points in latitude.

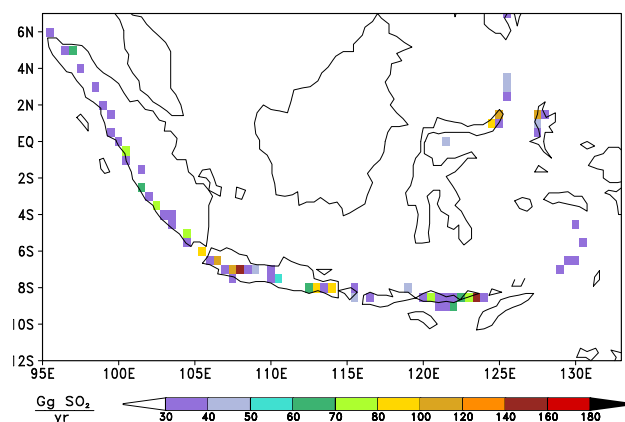


Fig. 1. Emission inventory of the annual sum of continuous (eruptive + passive) and sporadic (eruptive) volcanic SO_2 emissions.

2.1 Emission inventory

An annual inventory was established to represent maximum potential volcanic emissions within the modeled region of Indonesia (Fig. 1). Over the past century, from 1900 to 1993, 63 volcanoes in Indonesia are known to have erupted and 32 additional volcanoes have degassed passively, for a total sum of 95 active volcanoes (Simkin and Siebert, 1994). The inventory established for this work contains both continuous and sporadic volcanic emissions. Continuous emissions include passive degassing as well as long-lasting diffusive eruptive emissions while sporadic emissions include short-lived eruptions (typically stronger than continuously erupted emissions). Continuous emissions were taken from Nho et al. (1996) as this work provides the maximum published estimate of SO_2 emissions from the Indonesian volcanoes (Table 1: 1600 $\text{Gg SO}_2/\text{yr}$ released non-eruptively; 1900 $\text{Gg SO}_2/\text{yr}$ eruptively; for a sum of 3500 $\text{Gg SO}_2/\text{yr}$ continuous emissions (which is equivalent to 1750 $\text{Gg (S)}/\text{yr}$)). The continuous emissions were divided evenly amongst the 95 active volcanoes. This is the most reasonable assumption we could make, despite the fact that emission rates of volcanoes are highly variable in time and between different volcanoes, because only a few of the active Indonesian volcanoes have published SO_2 flux measurements. It would have been less reasonable to have scaled the emission flux estimates for individual volcanoes based on the small number of available measurements for the active volcanoes. The division of the continuous emissions between all of the active volcanoes results in a mean continuous SO_2 flux of 36.8 $\text{Gg SO}_2/\text{yr}$ (100 $\text{Mg SO}_2/\text{day}$) for each volcano.

An estimate of the sporadic eruptive volcanic emissions for the region was established for this work using the Simkin and Siebert (1994) catalog of volcanic activity. Simkin and Siebert (1994) provide a compilation of the best known estimates of the date and eruption strength for all of the known volcanic activity on Earth. Each volcanic eruption is

Table 1. Estimates of Indonesian volcanic emissions.

| Emission style | SO ₂ flux (Gg/yr) | Reference |
|---|------------------------------|---|
| continuous (non-eruptive) | 120 | Hilton et al. (2002) |
| continuous (non-eruptive) | 210 | Spiro et al. (1992) |
| continuous (non-eruptive) | 1600 | Nho et al. (1996) |
| continuous (eruptive) | 1900 | Nho et al. (1996) |
| continuous (eruptive + non-eruptive) | 3500 | sum from Nho et al. (1996) used in this study |
| sporadic (eruptive) | 290 | calculated for this study |
| continuous + sporadic (eruptive + non-eruptive) | 2100–2600 | Halmer et al. (2002) |
| continuous + sporadic (eruptive + non-eruptive) | 3790 | this study |

assigned a volcanic explosivity index (VEI) strength which is an indicator of the explosiveness of a volcanic event (Newhall and Self, 1982). All of the eruptions recorded in the catalog during the last century (1900–1993) for each active Indonesian volcano were summed to assemble the sporadic emission inventory. Indexes estimating the amount of SO₂ released due to each VEI class have been developed by Schnetzler et al. (1997), the volcanic sulfur index “VSI”, and by Halmer et al. (2002), the “modified VSI”. In this study, we have applied the VSI. The total number of eruptions of each VEI class was multiplied by the maximum amount of SO₂ released by arc volcanoes suggested by the VSI. The SO₂ flux resulting from this multiplication was then divided by the 93 years of the record to generate an annual mean emission estimate. Averaging over 93 years removes some of the high natural short-term variability of volcanic activity. These calculations indicate 290 Gg SO₂/yr released sporadically by the Indonesian volcanoes – a sum of sporadic and continuous volcanic emissions of 3800 Gg SO₂/yr (which is equivalent to 1900 Gg (S)/yr). The estimated emission fluxes for the individual volcanoes correspond reasonably well with SO₂ flux measurements of Indonesian volcanoes (Table 2).

The emissions of each individual volcano were released into the model layer at the actual height of each volcano. The elevations of the volcanoes range from 200 m (Riang Kotang) to 3805 m (Kerinci) corresponding to the first 12 model levels.

2.2 Experiments

Two experiments were performed: a) “S Experiment” – volcanic S was released as primarily SO₂ that underwent oxidation to SO₄^{2−} following the major tropospheric chemical reactions and b) “PbCl₂ Experiment” – PbCl₂ released as an infinitely soluble passive tracer. The “S Experiment” was conducted to observe the transport and deposition patterns of volcanic S: SO₂+SO₄^{2−}. The volcanic emissions were released into the model as 96% SO₂ and 4% SO₄^{2−}. The assumption of an initial presence of some sulfate at the source to account for immediate oxidation processes is common in atmospheric chemistry modeling (e.g. Stier et al., 2005). Cal-

culations have been performed on the results of the “S Experiment” to determine atmospheric SO₂ loss rates from the volcanic plumes. SO₂ loss rate is a function of the concentration of SO₂ at two locations within a volcanic plume, the distance between these two locations, and the time of travel from the first to the second location. The calculations have been performed in order to replicate the analysis of field measurements of tropospheric SO₂ loss rates at individual volcanoes (Oppenheimer et al., 1998).

SO₂ loss rate from the model results was calculated as follows: over a given time period (year or season), the mean wind direction of each gridbox containing a volcano “V” was used to define which of the 8 surrounding gridboxes in the horizontal directions the SO₂ was most likely to be transported to: “V+1”. This was repeated a second time to define the gridbox “V+2”, a distance of 55–200 km (average 120 km) away from the volcano. The mean column burden, or the total mass per area of the given species contained in the entire atmospheric vertical column (up to the top of the model, 10 hPa), of SO₂ at “V” and “V+2” were then related following first order kinetics (Eq. 1).

$$\Phi_{t_1} = \Phi_{t_2} e^{k_1(t_2-t_1)} \quad (1)$$

where:

Φ = Column burden at given time [kg/m²]

t_2-t_1 = time to be transported from location 1 to 2 [s]

k_1 = SO₂ loss rate [s^{−1}]

The mean wind speed and distance between the two gridboxes were used to calculate the amount of time for transport from “V” to “V+2”. The result of the calculation is the yearly or seasonal mean SO₂ loss rate “ k_1 ” for each volcano. Column burden of SO₂ was used in this calculation as opposed to single model level concentrations, as this is a more accurate representation of the data that is obtained by ground-based COSPEC. For some volcanoes, the SO₂ loss rate calculation resulted in a negative or null value. A negative value indicates an increase in the concentration of SO₂ at “V+2” compared with “V”. This can occur when “V+2” contains SO₂ released or transported into the grid box from another

Table 2. SO₂ emissions from individual Indonesian volcanoes.

| Volcano | SO ₂ flux from emission inventory (Gg/yr) | SO ₂ flux from measurements (Gg/yr) | Reference |
|-------------------------|--|--|---|
| Bromo (Tengger Caldera) | 47.4 | 5.1 | Andres and Kasgnoc (1998) |
| Galunggung | 47.7 | 140.5 | Bluth et al. (1994) |
| | | 240.9 | Andres and Kasgnoc (1998) |
| Merapi | 55.6 | 36.5 | Dir. of Volcan. and Geol. Haz. Mit. of Indonesia (2005) |
| | | 51.1 | Andres and Kasgnoc (1998) |
| | | 73.0 | LeGuern (1982) |
| Slamet | 45.4 | 21.2 | Nho et al. (1996) |
| Tangkubanparahu | 37.5 | 27.4 | Andres and Kasgnoc (1998) |

volcano. A null value can occur when the wind direction is so variable that the emissions are predicted in the first step to be transported away from the grid box “V” and in the second step returned to it, for a net distance of 0. In both of these situations, the calculated SO₂ loss rates have been excluded from further consideration.

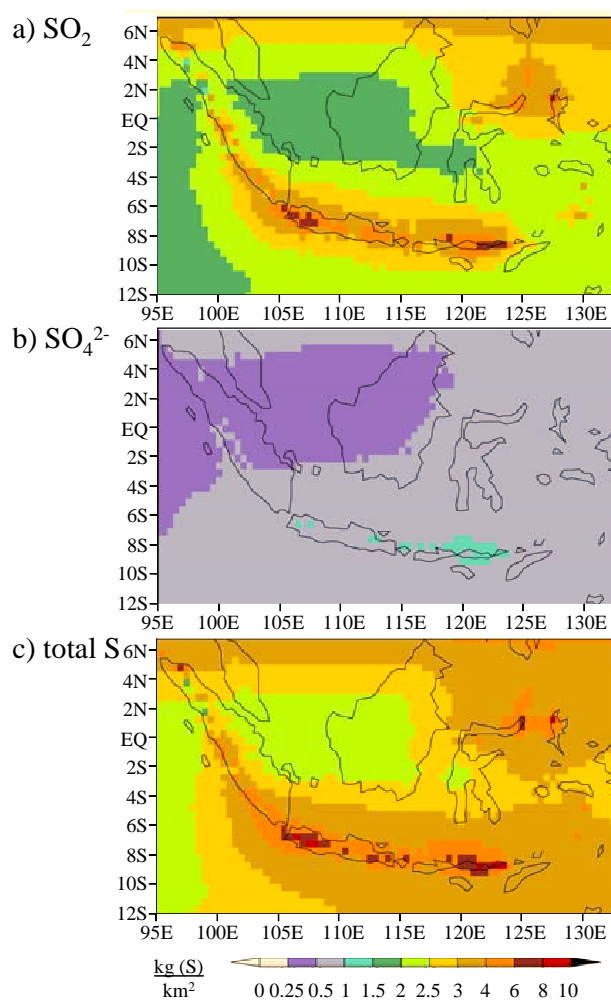
The “PbCl₂ Experiment” was conducted to observe the transport and deposition pattern of PbCl₂, a highly soluble compound released by volcanoes in relatively large concentrations (e.g. Delmelle, 2003). As PbCl₂ is not among the chemicals originally included in REMOTE, we included PbCl₂ in the model as an infinitely soluble passive tracer. PbCl₂ (solubility=0.99 g/100 cc CRC Handbook, 1993) is very soluble, and not infinitely soluble, so the modeling assumption of infinite solubility will lead to a slight over-prediction of the solubility of PbCl₂. The PbCl₂ is released as a passive tracer, and as such it is transported in the atmosphere and is removed from the atmosphere by wet and dry deposition processes, but it does not react to form other chemical species. The emission inventory was established for volcanic SO₂, so to calculate a corresponding emission flux of PbCl₂ the emissions have been scaled to the ratio of Pb to S in Indonesian fumarolic gases (Table 3), which may produce an underestimation of the flux of the volcanic PbCl₂, as described earlier.

3 Results

The results of the “S Experiment” are presented first, followed by the SO₂ loss rates that have been calculated from these results. The results of the “PbCl₂ Experiment” are presented last.

3.1 “S Experiment” and calculated SO₂ loss rates

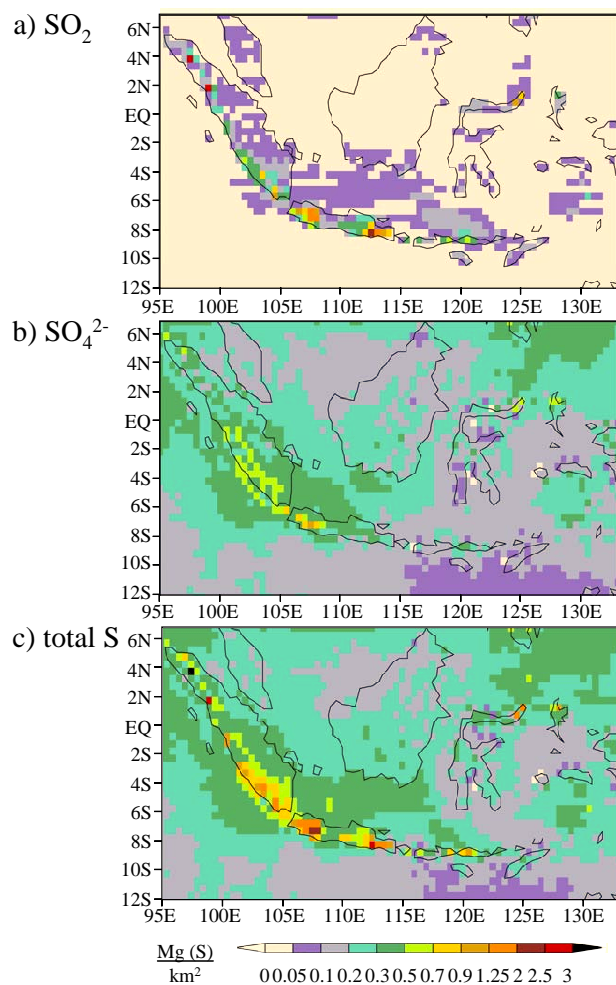
The modeled atmospheric distribution of volcanic S species is shown as annual mean column burden in Fig. 2 as a) SO₂, b) SO₄²⁻, and c) total volcanic S (SO₂+SO₄²⁻). The atmo-

**Fig. 2.** Annual mean vertical column burden of (a) SO₂, (b) SO₄²⁻, and (c) total S: SO₂+SO₄²⁻ for the “S Experiment”.

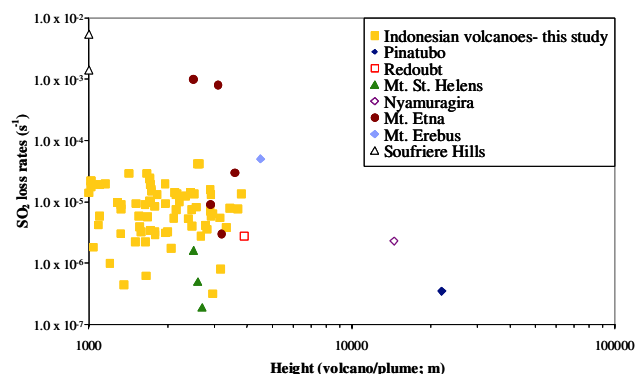
spheric concentration of SO₂ is much higher than that of SO₄²⁻, and dominates the sum of the two. The annual mean

Table 3. Pb/S ratios in Indonesian volcanic gases.

| Volcano | Pb/S ($\mu\text{g/g}$) | Reference |
|-------------|--------------------------|---|
| Merapi | 420 | Nho et al. (1996) |
| Merapi | 35 | Symonds et al. (1987) |
| Papandayan | 280 | Nho et al. (1996) |
| Mean | 245 | the average of the above measurements was applied in this study |
| Global mean | 190 | Hinkley et al. (1999) |

**Fig. 3.** Annual sum of the (a) dry SO_2 deposition, (b) dry + wet SO_4^{2-} deposition, and (c) total S: dry SO_2 + dry + wet SO_4^{2-} deposition for the “S Experiment”.

column burden of SO_2 ranges from 1.5–10 kg(S)/km^2 and SO_4^{2-} from 0–1.5 kg(S)/km^2 . Qualitatively, both SO_2 and SO_4^{2-} show the highest concentrations near to the volcanoes, while away from the volcanoes the concentration decreases, with the dominant transport away from the volcanoes towards the east. Relatively high atmospheric concentrations of the S species are also seen at the northern boundaries of

**Fig. 4.** Modeled SO_2 loss rates (yellow squares) are plotted against the actual height of each volcano and measured SO_2 loss rates from Oppenheimer et al. (1998) are plotted against the observed plume height.

the figures. This is a result of the concentrations of SO_2 and SO_4^{2-} defined at the boundaries of the model domain to represent input from pollution from outside the modeled region and is not a result of the transport of volcanic S.

Volcanic S deposition is presented as a) the annual sum of the dry SO_2 deposition, b) dry + wet SO_4^{2-} deposition, and c) the total volcanic S deposition as the sum of the two (Fig. 3). More than 99% of SO_4^{2-} is deposited via wet deposition, so only the total SO_4^{2-} deposition is shown. SO_2 is dry deposited in large concentrations close to the volcanoes, up to 3 Mg(S)/km^2 , but with almost no deposition away from the volcanoes. SO_4^{2-} , in comparison, has a maximum annual deposition of only up to 1.25 Mg(S)/km^2 , with much more significant deposition away from the volcanoes. 83% of the volcanic S is deposited as SO_4^{2-} . There is an average annual sum of deposition over the entire modeled region of 45.6 kg(S)/km^2 SO_2 and 219.6 kg(S)/km^2 SO_4^{2-} .

The SO_2 loss rates calculated from the model results (3.2×10^{-7} – $4.1 \times 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$) agree well in magnitude with SO_2 loss rates measured at individual volcanoes in other parts of the world (1.9×10^{-7} – $5.4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$) (Fig. 4) (Oppenheimer et al., 1998). There is a large variability in SO_2 loss rates measured at different volcanoes, and at Mt. Etna alone, SO_2 loss rates have been observed to vary over 3 orders of magnitude.

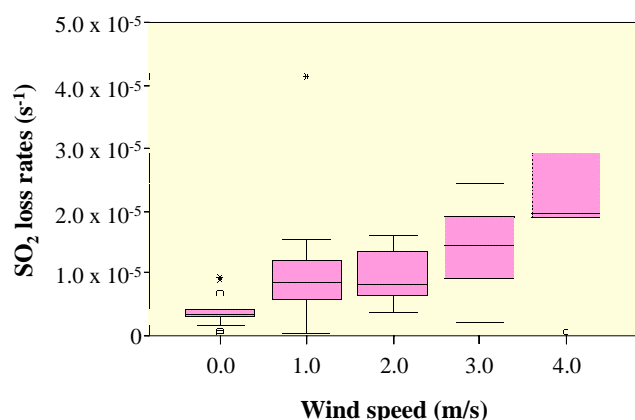


Fig. 5. Annual mean SO_2 loss rates for each modeled volcano plotted against the annual mean wind speed at the height of each volcano.

Figure 5 shows a box plot of the bin wind speed over 1 m/s intervals plotted against SO_2 loss rates. The lower edge of the box represents the 25th percentile value and the upper edge the 75th. The height of each box shows the interquartile range for each bin and is an indicator of the variability of the values. The line across the box indicates the median (50th percentile). Four outlayer values are shown as open circles and three extreme values as stars. The correlation between windspeed and SO_2 loss rate is weak but statistically significant ($p < 0.01$; $R^2 = 0.2$). There is a general trend of increasing wind speed associated with increased SO_2 loss rates as well as an increase in the variability of the SO_2 loss rates. Temperature and relative humidity, in contrast, demonstrate trivial and non-significant ($R^2 < 0.02$) correlation with SO_2 loss rate. It was relevant to look for a correlation with temperature and relative humidity because these meteorological parameters influence the pathways of SO_2 to SO_4^{2-} formation as well as precipitation, which influences removal processes.

SO_2 loss rates have been calculated for each month and season based on the monsoonal winds: north monsoon (December–March); April/May intermonsoon (April–May); south monsoon (June–September); and October/November intermonsoon (October–November). The north monsoon is distinguished by winds blowing predominantly from China, the south monsoon by winds blowing predominantly from the Indian Ocean and Australia, and the intermonsoon seasons are distinguished by weak and variable direction winds. SO_2 loss rates as a function of season are shown as a box plot in Fig. 6. Three outlayer values are shown as open circles and one extreme value as a star. The only seasons with outlayers and extreme values are the two monsoon seasons. Excluding the outlayers and extremes, winter has the lowest variability and spring the highest. The mean seasonal SO_2 loss rates for all volcanoes vary between $9.7 \times 10^{-6} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (April/May) and $1.3 \times 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (south monsoon). A greater variability is demonstrated between individual volcanoes than between

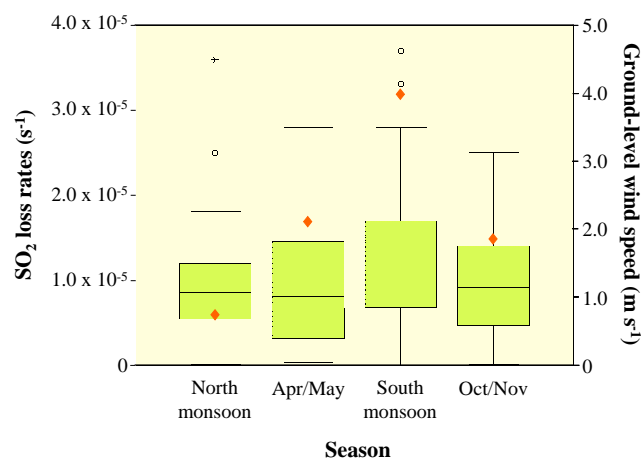


Fig. 6. Seasonal SO_2 loss rates (green boxes) and mean ground-level wind speeds (orange diamonds).

the seasonal means averaged over all of the volcanoes. The only season with a significantly higher mean SO_2 loss rate is the south monsoon, which is distinguished by the strongest wind speed.

Loss of volcanic SO_2 from the atmosphere can be accomplished via the dry deposition of SO_2 and by oxidation to SO_4^{2-} . There can also be an apparent SO_2 loss due to transport outside of the measured plume (in the field) or outside of the predicted transport route (in the calculations performed on the model results). The percentage of SO_2 lost due to dry deposition was calculated by dividing the annual mean dry deposition of SO_2 for one day by the difference in column burden of SO_2 between locations “V” and “V+1”, while the percentage of SO_2 lost due to oxidation was calculated by dividing the annual mean column burden of SO_4^{2-} in grid box “V” by the difference in column burden of SO_2 between locations “V” and “V+1”. The remaining lost SO_2 was attributed to lateral transport. The average for all volcanoes within an average of 70 km away from the volcanoes is 53% of SO_2 loss is due to conversion to SO_4^{2-} , 42% to dry deposition, and 5% due to lateral transport. These percentages do not continue at greater distances from the volcanoes. Between locations “V+1” and “V+2” (an average distance of 70–120 km from the volcanoes) the sum of the column burden of SO_4^{2-} and the daily dry deposition of SO_2 is greater than the loss of SO_2 . This apparent incongruity can be explained by the transport of SO_2 from other volcanoes into gridbox “V+2”. While some sulfate may be transported into box “V+2”, the transport of sulfate is much less than that of SO_2 because of sulfate’s high solubility and tendency to be washed out of the atmosphere very quickly. Despite the fact that the percentage loss analysis fails between boxes “V+1” and “V+2” due to SO_2 from neighboring volcanoes, we have applied the SO_2 loss rate equation between points “V” and “V+2” rather than between “V” and “V+1”. This is because there is only a small difference in the calculated annual mean SO_2 loss rate

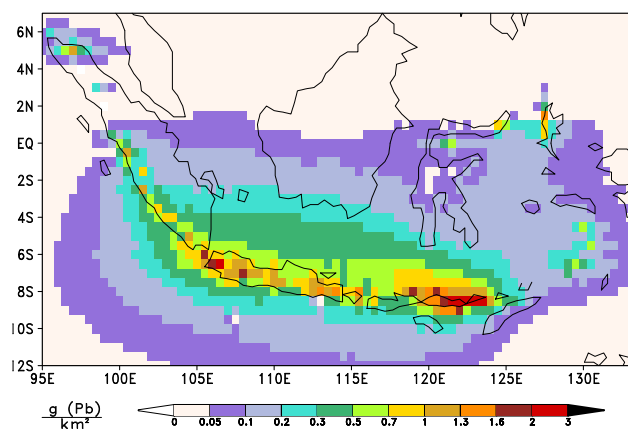


Fig. 7. Annual mean column burden of PbCl_2 for the “ PbCl_2 Experiment”.

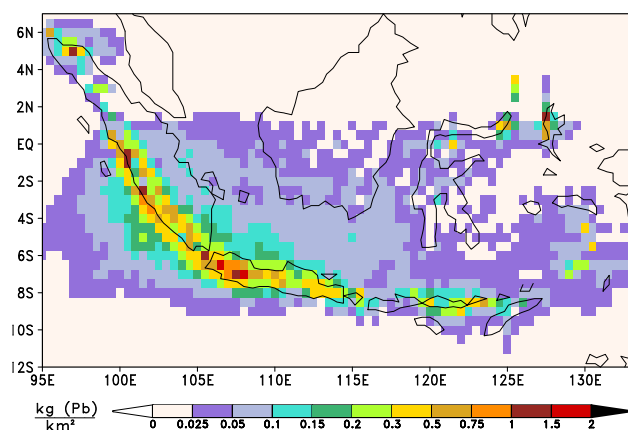


Fig. 8. Annual sum of dry + wet PbCl_2 deposition for the “ PbCl_2 Experiment”.

(e-folding rate of 1.3 day versus 1 day) while there is an increase of 1.5 times as many volcanoes that must be excluded from the loss rate calculation between points “V” and “V+1” compared with between “V” and “V+2”.

Temperature, relative humidity, and wind speed have been related to the relative percentage of SO_2 lost due to the dry deposition of SO_2 , oxidation to SO_4^{2-} , and transport outside of the predicted plume pathway to see if there is any correlation between variations in the meteorological conditions and the manner in which SO_2 is lost. No such correlation was found.

3.2 “ PbCl_2 Experiment”

The modeled atmospheric distribution of volcanic PbCl_2 is shown as annual mean column burden in Fig. 7. The annual mean column burden of PbCl_2 ranges from 0–3 g (Pb)/ km^2 . Atmospheric PbCl_2 is found in greatest concentrations near to the volcanoes, with only slight easterly transport. The annual sum of the wet and dry PbCl_2 deposition is shown in

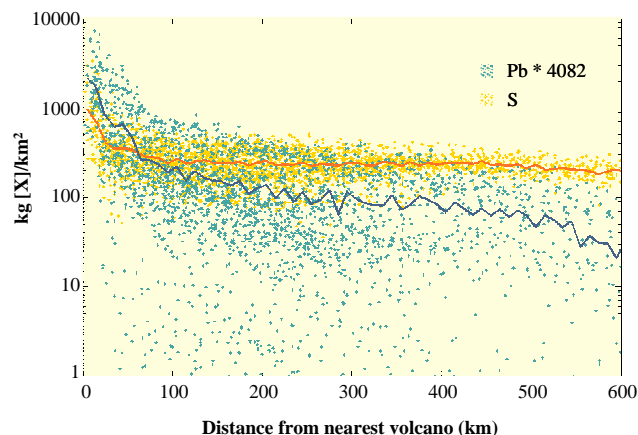


Fig. 9. Annual sum of total deposition for each modeled grid box as a function of the distance to the nearest volcano (“ PbCl_2 experiment”: blue; “S experiment”: yellow). The solid lines (corresponding colors) are the bin mean over 10 km intervals. To show the S and Pb on the same scale, the Pb has been multiplied by 4082, the inverse ratio of Pb/S in Indonesian fumarolic gases.

Fig. 8. More than 99% of PbCl_2 is deposited via wet deposition, so only the sum of the two is presented. The PbCl_2 is deposited in concentrations of up to 2 kg (Pb)/ km^2 with an average annual sum of 52 g (Pb)/ km^2 of PbCl_2 deposited in the modeled region.

Both the atmospheric burden and deposition of Pb are three orders of magnitude less than that of S. In both experiments, deposition is relatively uniform with relation to distance from any given volcano and not very distinctive for individual volcanoes. We attribute this to the resolution of the model experiments and to the assumption of an even distribution of the continuous volcanic emissions between the active volcanoes. PbCl_2 is rapidly deposited very close to the volcanoes, resulting in high local concentrations and a sharp decline in deposition at greater distances from the volcanoes. While SO_2 is calculated to have an annual mean loss rate of $1.1 \times 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$, or an e-folding rate of approximately 1 day, PbCl_2 is calculated to have a loss rate of $5.3 \times 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$, or an e-folding rate of approximately 0.2 day. SO_2 is less soluble in rain than PbCl_2 , and has some dry deposition, but is mostly transported away from the volcanoes prior to conversion to water-soluble SO_4^{2-} . Because most of the SO_2 is transported and then converted to SO_4^{2-} rather than deposited directly as SO_2 , there is more S deposition at increasing distances from the volcanoes compared with PbCl_2 , creating a less steep gradient of S deposition (Fig. 9), and hence, the larger e-folding rate.

4 Discussion

We will interpret the modeling results and discuss how these results can be used to address the two questions described

above: 1) How do variable meteorological conditions influence volcanic SO_2 concentration in the atmosphere and SO_2 loss rates? and 2) How do the transport and deposition patterns of highly soluble volcanic compounds relate to SO_2 ? After addressing these two questions, we will consider how the volcanic emissions may have influenced the peat forests in the region.

4.1 Meteorological influences on SO_2 loss rate

The large variabilities of SO_2 loss rates measured at individual volcanoes have been attributed to variable atmospheric and plume conditions (Oppenheimer et al., 1998). Our model results suggest, albeit weakly, that the meteorological condition most significantly influencing the variability of SO_2 loss rates is wind speed. The suggested relationship between stronger winds and greater SO_2 loss rates may indicate an increase in dry deposition at higher winds. Within the model, dry deposition is dependent on turbulence, which is enhanced by stronger winds. We did not find, however, a correlation between increased wind speed and an increased percentage of SO_2 lost due to dry deposition. A simpler explanation for the correlation between increased SO_2 loss rate and increased wind speed is that given a constant emission rate, stronger winds transport mass away from an emission source more quickly, reducing the concentration of SO_2 found at a given distance from a volcano. A relationship between stronger winds and greater variability of SO_2 loss rates has been shown. The ramifications of this are that it may be more difficult to obtain a characteristic SO_2 loss rate for a volcano that is exposed to highly variable wind conditions, as opposed to a volcano that is exposed to more constant winds.

The environmental conditions in this study are unique for Indonesia. There are a large number of active volcanoes close to each other, potentially resulting in overlapping plumes. The transport of SO_2 from other volcanoes into grid-boxes under consideration produces a complication for the analysis of the SO_2 loss rates. The strong year-round solar radiation promotes the rapid oxidation of SO_2 to sulfate and the high rainfall of Indonesia results in the rapid deposition of sulfate. The conclusions drawn in this study about the atmospheric loss of volcanic SO_2 are only applicable to this region and should be extrapolated to other volcanic regions cautiously. Further fieldwork-based research that considers variations in wind speed and apparent SO_2 loss rates may be able to form a more conclusive statement about the possible correlation between wind speed and SO_2 loss rates. It may be important to consider wind speed variations when making interpretations about changes in volcanic activity based on remote SO_2 measurements. Some variations in SO_2 flux observed over time at one volcano may be due to differences in the winds, as opposed to variations in the volcanic emissions.

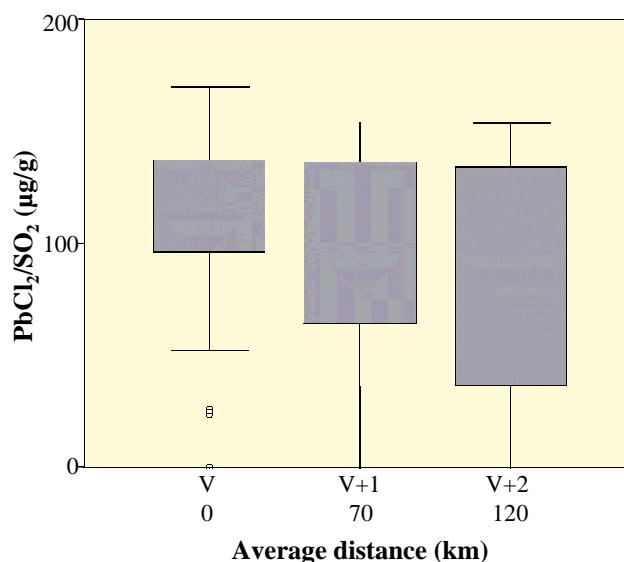


Fig. 10. Annual mean column burden of $[\text{PbCl}_2]/[\text{SO}_2]$ for all volcanoes plotted against the mean distance from each volcano (km) for locations “V”, “V+1”, and “V+2”.

4.2 Differences in transport and deposition patterns due to solubility

The influence of solubility on deposition patterns is illuminated by comparing the results of the two performed experiments (Fig. 9). The dependency of deposition rate on solubility has implications for the accurate extrapolation of measurements of SO_2 flux in aged volcanic plumes to other compounds. The further away from a volcano such measurements are made, the less accurate it is to assume that the concentration of volcanic SO_2 measured there has the same ratio to more soluble species as the ratio measured in fumarolic gases.

The ratio of $[\text{PbCl}_2]/[\text{SO}_2]$ in the air decreases with increasing distance from the volcanoes as the PbCl_2 is deposited (Fig. 10). Figure 10 is a box plot with the same specifics as for Figs. 5 and 6. Four outlayer values are shown as open circles at location “V”. The interquartile range increases at greater distance from the volcanoes indicating that the variability of the $[\text{PbCl}_2]/[\text{SO}_2]$ ratio is growing at greater distances from the volcanoes. The median $[\text{PbCl}_2]/[\text{SO}_2]$ ratio decreases exponentially at greater distances from the volcanoes with the mean exponential rate of decay of the $[\text{PbCl}_2]/[\text{SO}_2]$ ratio based on these three distances being $y = 106.5e^{-0.002x}$.

where:

$$y = [\text{PbCl}_2]/[\text{SO}_2] \text{ (}\mu\text{g/g)}$$

$$x = \text{distance from volcanoes (km)}.$$

The mean $[\text{PbCl}_2]/[\text{SO}_2]$ at the three distances are: “V”=107.7; “V+1”=89.3; and “V+2”=83.2 $\mu\text{g/g}$. The ratio

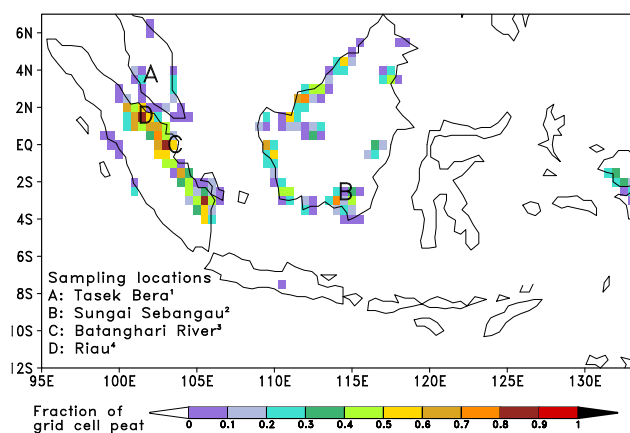


Fig. 11. Peat sampling locations on a map of the fractional peat coverage of the modeled region (after Heil et al., 2005). ¹ Wüst and Bustin (2001); ² Weiss et al. (2002); ³ Esterle and Ferm (1994); ⁴ Supardi et al. (1993).

of $107.7 \mu\text{g PbCl}_2/\text{g SO}_2$ is equivalent to $160.5 \mu\text{g Pb/g S}$. This differs from the $245 \mu\text{g Pb/g S}$ defined as the ratio of Pb/S in the primary volcanic emissions (Table 3) because of SO_2 released by other volcanoes and transported into gridbox “V”.

Based on this mean rate of decay, we estimate that calculations (e.g. based on COSPEC measurements) which assume a constant $[\text{X}]/[\text{S}]$ ratio as found in fumarolic gases will result in a 6% underestimation of the emission flux of highly soluble species at 30 km distance away from a volcanic vent; at 100 km, this would grow to an 18% underestimation. Our results indicate that the assumption of a constant ratio between SO_2 and other, highly soluble species such as PbCl_2 is justified at distances where COSPEC is usually performed.

4.3 Comparison between modeled S deposition and peat core samples

We have used the modeling results to examine the hypothesis proposed by Langmann and Graf (2003) that the Indonesian volcanic emissions have had a significant influence on the sulfur content of peat in the area. In order to assess the potential contribution of volcanic emissions to the sulfur content of Indonesian peat, we have compared the modeled S deposition with the concentration of S measured in peat core samples collected in the modeled region. Peat can serve as a historical record of atmospheric deposition for time periods of up to thousands of years. The peat areas of Indonesia may be particularly useful recorders of the deposition of volcanic emissions because of the large number of historical and modern active volcanoes in the vicinity of peat areas (Langmann and Graf, 2003). It has been suggested in several studies that anomalous, high concentrations of S and other chemicals including Pb in peat core samples (collected outside of Indonesia) may be due to volcanic deposition (e.g. Weiss et al.,

1997; Roos-Barraclough et al., 2002; Kylander et al., 2005). Within Indonesia, there are two main types of peat: ombrogenous and topogenous (Page et al., 1999). Ombrogenous peat receives nutrients only from atmospheric deposition while topogenous peat also receives nutrients from groundwater. Ombrogenous peat is therefore more useful for interpreting the historical deposition of atmospheric compounds. In this work we have compiled measurement data from the literature of S in four ombrogenous peat areas in Indonesia for comparison with the modeled S deposition (Fig. 11; Table 4).

The average S of each sampled peat core was calculated by multiplying the average percent S in each of the four peat sampling locations with the average peat dry bulk density (0.18 g/cm^3) given by Shimada et al. (2001). This value was multiplied by the minimum (1.7 mm/yr) and maximum (4.3 mm/yr) peat accumulation rates provided by Supardi et al. (1993), resulting in the presented range of values for the S deposition of each peat core. The average % S was calculated from 3–16 samples within each peat core. Peat core samples had both total S and ^{14}C age measured, or had only total S measured and were very close to another peat sample where ^{14}C was measured. S values from portions of the peat cores that were dated to be less than 150 years old were not included in the average as these S values may have been influenced by human activity.

A comparison between the modeled S deposition and the rate of S deposition measured in the peat core samples reveals values with the same orders of magnitude (Table 4). The potential volcanic contribution to the peat S has been calculated on the basis of what percentage of the peat S could be attributed to the deposition of volcanic S. We find that 6–72% of the S measured in the peat samples could have volcanic origin. There is a relatively uniform concentration of volcanic S predicted to be deposited on all four peat areas ($215\text{--}285 \text{ kg/km}^2 \text{ yr}$). This is because of the distance between the peat areas and the nearest volcanoes (minimum 153 km) and the relatively homogeneous modeled deposition of S at these distances from the volcanoes. It would be helpful to be able to compare the model results with a peat sample collected nearer to the volcanoes, but we have not been able to obtain such a sample. We find the agreement in scale to be a strong indication that the modeled deposition of the volcanic S is reasonable.

Our modeling results indicate that the Indonesian volcanoes have contributed slightly to the quantitative sulfur content of peat in the region. This does not suggest that the volcanic S has little qualitative contribution to the peat's characteristics. Sulfur cycling within peat is complicated, and peat is not a closed system. Moore et al. (2004) have found that approximately 75% of anthropogenic S deposited onto peat in eastern Canada is accumulated within the peat. This value may differ depending on the different origins of the S, such as volcanoes, sea spray, and anthropogenic pollution, as this may dictate the state of the deposited S. Thompson and Bottrell (1998) have demonstrated that *Sphagnum*,

Table 4. The letters in parenthesis refer to the sampling locations marked in Fig. 11
Comparison of modeled S deposition and peat core samples.

| Sampling location | Distance to nearest volcano (km) | Measured S accumulation (kg/km ² – yr) | Modeled S deposition (kg/km ² – yr) | Volcanic S (%) | Reference (% S measured in peat core) |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Riau (A) | 153 | 398–1006 | 285 | 28–72 | Supardi et al. (1993) |
| Batanghari River (B) | 160 | 1744–4412 | 264 | 6–15 | Esterle and Ferm (1994) |
| Tasek Bera (C) | 258 | 796–2012 | 215 | 11–27 | Wüst and Bustin (2001) |
| Sungai Sebangau (D) | 396 | 428–1084 | 253 | 23–59 | Weiss et al. (2002) |

a common peat plant in Northern latitude peat areas but not in Indonesia, preferentially incorporates partially reduced sulfur species, and it follows that the source of deposited S may influence how it is incorporated into Indonesian peat. Within peat, sulfur can be reduced by bacterial activity, given off as H₂S gas, and transported downwards and laterally out of the peat dependent on the local hydrology (Novák et al., 2005). This study cannot address how the volcanic S may have influenced the properties of the peat, and a field study incorporating other additional tracers for volcanic activity could shed more light on this question.

5 Conclusions

This study demonstrates that realistic modeling of volcanic emissions can lead to an improved understanding of the atmospheric processes occurring in the vicinity of active volcanoes. The results of the study show that SO₂ loss rates from the plumes of the Indonesian volcanoes are weakly correlated with wind speed and uncorrelated with relative humidity or temperature and that there is no correlation between these three meteorological phenomena and the relative amount of SO₂ lost due to the dry deposition of SO₂, conversion to SO₄^{2−}, or lateral transport. A relationship is demonstrated between increased wind speed and increased variability of SO₂ loss rates. We recommend that further fieldwork-based research be conducted to explore the possible relationship between wind speed and apparent SO₂ loss rates as variations in wind speed might lead to changes in SO₂ loss rates independent of a change in the state of volcanic activity.

The solubility of the Indonesian volcanic emissions is shown to influence whether they are deposited near to the volcanoes or transported prior to deposition. Highly soluble species such as PbCl₂ have high deposition rates near to the volcanoes while the relatively insoluble SO₂ is transported away from the volcanoes until it is oxidized to SO₄^{2−} and then rapidly deposited. The ratio of highly soluble species/[SO₂] decreases exponentially at greater distances from the volcanoes. Our results indicate that an assumption of a constant ratio between highly soluble species and SO₂ from the fumarole to the distances where COSPEC is usually performed

is justified at individual volcanoes. Extrapolating from SO₂ measurements to establish global inventories may, however, generate a significant underestimation of the emission rates of highly soluble species, and the solubility effect should be considered.

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